

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**STATE CONSUMER AND FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**June 8, 2006**

**Present:** Jere Annis, Carl Britton-Watkins, Terry Burgess, Zack Commander, Bill Cook, Ron Kendrick, Ellen Perry, Barbara Richards, Andrea Stevens, Beverly Stone and David Taylor.

**Absent:** Matthew Elliott, Ron Huber, Dorothy O'Neal and Amelia Thorpe.

**DMH/DD/SAS Staff Present:** Cathy Kocian, Dr. Mike Lancaster, Chris Phillips, Ann Remington and Jesse Sowa.

**Guests:** Ellen Boahn, Kent Earnhardt, Carolyn Privott and Judy Taylor.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- ◆ The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M.
- ◆ The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

**2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

- ◆ The meeting agenda was approved with changes.
- ◆ The May 2006 meeting minutes were approved with changes.

**3. SCFAC Newsletter**

- ◆ Members discussed ideas and topics to include in the upcoming edition of the SCFAC newsletter. The sub-committee agreed to develop an outline describing possible content for the newsletter and will submit it to the staff liaison by July 5, 2006.
- ◆ SCFAC members wishing to submit articles must document sources used prior to articles being published in the newsletter.

**4. SCFAC Conflict of Interest Policy**

- ◆ SCFAC members discussed the current Conflict of Interest policy that was distributed July 5, 2005. At the time the policy was developed, the SCFAC members agreed upon the following eight activities that might be considered a conflict of interest:
  1. CFAC members who are employed by the LME;
  2. CFAC members who have a direct contract with the LME;
  3. CFAC members who work for someone contracting with the LME;
  4. CFAC members who are providers in the LME catchment area;
  5. CFAC members who work for providers in the LME's catchment area;
  6. CFAC members who are also Area Board members for the LME and, if this is not a conflict, should there be a limit on how many CFAC members should be allowed to function in this dual capacity;
  7. CFAC members who have a grant/contract with the Division, and;
  8. CFAC members who work for an agency who has a contract with the Division.
- ◆ Upon review of each conflict, the following activities were accepted as is or with the understanding that revisions will be made:
  - **Revise** number 2: CFAC members who have a direct contract with the LME,

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- **Accept** number 4: CFAC members who are providers in the LME catchment area and
- **Accept** number 7: CFAC members who have a grant/contract with the Division.
- ◆ The SCFAC has agreed to review potential conflicts of interest on a case-by-case basis during the SCFAC sub-committee application review process.

## **5. ELT Report**

- ◆ Carl Britton-Watkins attended the May 31, 2006 ELT meeting in Raleigh. A standardized template for Screening, Triage and Referral (STR) data was reviewed and discussion included several edits that need to be made to the current draft.
- ◆ Assigned Division staff will be taking Incident Command Training (training to enable the participant to respond to disasters or other incidents) which involves 3 courses that need to be completed by September 30, 2006.
- ◆ Deaf Specialty Services will continue to be provided by the LMEs that currently employ deaf services staff rather than divesting this service as previously discussed. Division staff will be working with the LME deaf services staff and contractors to help provide assistance.
- ◆ The Division is currently looking at Management Goals and Indicators for the Department of Health and Human Service Business Plan. In addition, the ELT discussed changes to the substance abuse target population.
- ◆ ELT was provided a brief update on SCFAC's recent activities including recommendations regarding Evidence Based Practices.

## **6. SCFAC 2006 Election**

- ◆ Previous nominations for SCFAC office for the term July 1, 2006- June 30, 2008 included:
  1. SCFAC Chair (2006-2008): Carl Britton-Watkins,
  2. SCFAC Vice-Chair (2006-2008): Ron Kendrick,
  3. SCFAC Chair/Vice Chair: Barbara Richards and
  4. SCFAC Chair/Vice Chair: Ellen Perry.
- ◆ Ellen Perry requested to be placed on the ballot for SCFAC Vice Chair only. There were no additional nominations from the floor.
- ◆ Elections were held using the ballot method and the new SCFAC Chair is Carl Britton-Watkins and the Vice Chair is Ron Kendrick. Both positions become effective July 1, 2006.
- ◆ The new Chair thanked the committee for the vote of confidence and also thanked Jere Annis for his leadership and dedication the past two years. In addition, the committee gave a word of thanks to the past SCFAC Chair for all of his efforts and willingness to serve as Chair.

## **7. Concept of Regional LMEs**

- ◆ During the May 2006 SCFAC meeting, Jere Annis raised concerns regarding the concept of regionalization and the decision by the Secretary to approve Value Options as the contractor that will perform Utilization Review across the state in order to ensure statewide consistency of service authorization. The SCFAC reviewed the letter written by the Secretary dated May 18, 2006, that was sent to the Executive Committee of CFAC-Western Highlands Network. In addition, the

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committee discussed the April 6, 2006 memo regarding Utilization Review (UR) and After-Hours Screening, Triage and Referral (STR). Upon careful review of these two documents, the SCFAC agreed to suspend the letter to the Secretary and Mike Moseley.

- ◆ The committee has requested a number of items of information from the Division including a request for a presentation from DMA on the new process for handling Medicaid appeals.

### **8. LOC Recommendations to the General Assembly**

- ◆ The SCFAC reviewed two letters supporting the LOC recommendations. The committee discussed the importance of regular communication between meetings in order to produce finished products in a timely manner. Due to the timeliness of the letters as well as concerns with their content, they will not be delivered as planned.

### **9. SCFAC Communication between monthly meetings**

- ◆ The SCFAC discussed the need for all SCFAC members to start interacting on a regular basis. Several key points were made:
  1. An active ongoing dialogue between meetings must occur,
  2. Members must be vigilant about reading and responding to emails,
  3. Communications should be relevant to items currently under discussion,
  4. Urgent items should be flagged as a priority and
  5. Time frames for communications and projects must be established and feedback must occur in a timely manner.

### **10. Public Comment Time**

- ◆ Ellen Perry has been appointed Legislative Liaison for the Association of Self-Advocates of NC.
- ◆ Barbara Richards received the “Extra Mile Award” from the NC Mental Health Consumers Organization for going the extra mile to help consumers across the state.

### **11. Mental Health Commission**

- ◆ Jere Annis requested that one SCFAC member be approved to attend the quarterly Mental Health Commission meetings and give an update to the SCFAC.
- ◆ The committee has requested that someone from the Mental Health Commission attend a SCFAC meeting in order to provide education and information on “How the Rules are Made.”

### **12. SCFAC Annual Report 2005-2006**

- ◆ Committee members reviewed a draft of the State CFAC Annual Report developed by the Jere Annis. Jere will make revisions to the document and resend it to the members via email for their review.

### **13. SCFAC Application Review Process**

- ◆ A motion was made and passed to have one member from each disability category sit on the SCFAC Application Review sub-committee in order to review applications. The committee members include:
  1. Mental Health: Terry Burgess,
  2. Substance Abuse: Bev Stone,
  3. Developmental Disabilities: Zach Commander,

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4. Youth Developmental Disabilities: David Taylor and
  5. 2006 SCFAC Chair: Carl Britton-Watkins.
- ◆ The SCFAC historically has reviewed and made recommendations to the Secretary regarding potential applicants.

#### **14. External Advisory Committee**

- ◆ Ron Huber attended the quarterly meeting and will provide an overview at the July 2006 SCFAC meeting.

#### **15. Review SCFAC Retreat Work plan**

- ◆ Members agreed to review the March retreat work plan. Each member is to bring 3 items from the work plan for review and discussion to the July meeting.

#### **16. Division Update**

- ◆ Dr. Michael Lancaster, Chief of Clinical Policy, provided the SCFAC with an overview of several issues being discussed in the legislature. In past years, the Division has rarely received more than \$25 - \$30 million for the fiscal year. At this time, the legislature is considering giving DMH/DD/SAS \$89-\$156 million for the 2006-2007 budget.
- ◆ Psychiatrists provide three billing codes:
  1. Medication checks,
  2. Brief medication checks with psychotherapy and
  3. Extended psychotherapy.
- ◆ Psychiatric care is a top priority of the Division and staff are looking at options that will assist with the retention of psychiatrists in the system. Dr. Lancaster stated that the Division is working to ensure that best practice models are being followed and that consumers get the best care possible. It has been suggested that every LME have a psychiatrist as the Medical Director but, due to the limited number of psychiatrists, some LMEs have social workers or psychologists as Clinical Directors. As a result of divestiture, many psychiatrists expressed the intent to go into private practice and the Division has been studying ways to retain them within the system.
- ◆ The Division has recommended that providers contract with the LMEs to utilize LME Psychiatrists. This would allow psychiatrists to work with ACT Teams, Community Support and Intensive In-Home treatment.
- ◆ One of four pilot projects across the state is the Buncombe County Primary Care Integration Project which is being overseen by Dr. Susan Mimms. Medicaid will provide money through Community Care of NC to support behavioral health service in a primary care setting.
- ◆ Jail diversion efforts are underway and Division staff are presently working with social workers, prison treatment centers and jails in order to address clinical needs and treatment prior to people being released. One area of particular emphasis is collaboration between the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Social Services. One of the SCFAC members discussed the Partners in Justice Project that is ongoing in the state at this time. This training program is designed for lawyers, judges and law enforcement officers.
- ◆ One SCFAC member inquired about the development of child intervention crisis centers. The state is presently looking at models that could be used to place

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children in crisis respite care which is short term treatment with the goal of  
reintegrating the child with the family.

**17. Next Meeting**

- ◆ The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2006, from 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. and will be held at the Dorothea Dix Hospital Campus in the Royster Building in Room 116.

**18. July 2006 Meeting Agenda**

- ◆ Approval of the Agenda.
- ◆ Approval of the May meeting minutes.
- ◆ ELT Update.
- ◆ Division Update.
- ◆ Review SCFAC March Retreat Work plan.
- ◆ Discussion of the August 2006 Meeting Agenda.